

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS
RENDERED BY THE INTER-
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

VOLUME 20. Part 9. Pp. 103—110

OPINION 542

Designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal genus *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908) (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera)

LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for
Zoological Nomenclature
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7
1959

Price Five Shillings and Sixpence

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Issued 27th February, 1959



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 542

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DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES
IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE FOR THE NOMINAL
GENUS "CEPHALOMUTILLA" ANDRÉ, (1908) (CLASS
INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA)

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers all previous designations or selections of type species for the nominal genus *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908), are hereby set aside and the nominal species *Ephuta (Traumatomutilla) graviceps* André, 1903, is hereby designated as the type species of the above genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908) (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1) above : *Ephuta (Traumatomutilla) graviceps* André, 1903) (Name No. 1334) ;
- (b) *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by André (1903) : *Mutilla indica* Linnaeus, 1758) (Name No. 1335).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *graviceps* André, 1903, as published in the combination *Ephuta (Traumatomutilla) graviceps* (specific name of type species of *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908)) (Name No. 1606) ;
- (b) *indica* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Mutilla indica* (specific name of type species of *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901) (Name No. 1607) ;
- (c) *diabolica* Gerstaecker, 1874, as published in the combination *Mutilla diabolica* (Name No. 1608).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 20th January 1955, Dr. Clarence E. Mickel (*Head, Department of Entomology and Economic Zoology, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.*) addressed a preliminary communication to the Office of the Commission on the question of the possibility of action being taken under the Plenary Powers to preserve the accustomed usage of the generic name *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908) (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera). This led to consultations between the Secretary and the applicant on certain of the issues raised. These discussions were completed on 19th October 1956 when Dr. Mickel submitted the following application to the Commission for consideration :—

Request for the designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species for the genus "Cephalomutilla" André (1908) (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera) in harmony with accustomed usage*

By CLARENCE E. MICKEL

(*Department of Entomology and Economic Zoology, University of Minnesota, Institute of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.*)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to designate as the type species of the genus *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908) (Class Insecta Order

*Paper No. 3636 Scientific Journal Series, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

Hymenoptera) the species intended by that author in place of the nominal species actually cited by him when establishing this nominal genus. The present application is made under the procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 158–159) as that to be followed in the case of genera based upon misidentified type species. The facts of this case are set out in the following paragraphs :—

2. André in 1903 (*Ann. Soc. ent. France* **72** : 453) described a new species of Mutillid with the name *Ephuta (Traumatomutilla) graviceps*, from Santiago del Estero, Rep. Argentina. After giving the description he stated that this species was perhaps the same as *Mutilla diabolica* Gerstaecker, 1874 (*Arch. Naturgesch.* **40** : 76), but that Gerstaecker's description was too brief to permit him to reach a decision ; “ C'est peut-être la *M. diabolica* Gerst., mais l'insuffisance de la description ne permet pas d'acquérir une certitude à cet égard ”.

3. Later André proposed the genus *Cephalomutilla* ((1908), *An. Mus. nac. Buenos Aires*, (Ser. 3) **10** : 194) with *Mutilla diabolica* Gerstaecker, as type species, and to include three additional species, *argyrostigma* Burmeister, 1875 (*Bol. Acad. Cienc. Córdoba* **1** : 477), *haematodes* Gerstaecker, 1874 (*Arch. Naturgesch.* **40** : 63) and *prionophora* Burmeister, 1854 (*Abh. naturf. Ges. Halle* **2** (SitzBer.) : 27). (It may be noted here that the name *Cephalomutilla* André is frequently treated (e.g. by Neave in his *Nomenclator zool.*) as having been published in 1909. This appears to be incorrect. The year “ 1909 ” is that which is given on the title page of the volume but in the Table of Contents a separate date is allotted to each paper, the date cited for André's paper being 17th July 1908. A footnote on the same page reads : “ La fechas indican el dia en que fueron puestas en circulation las publicaciones correspondientes impresas aparte.” The date “ 1908 ” is accordingly cited in parentheses.)

4. The first of the species discussed by André was *Cephalomutilla diabolica* (Gerstaecker). André stated that when he described *graviceps*, he suspected it was the same as *diabolica* Gerstaecker ; that now he had seen a specimen from Paraná which convinced him for certain that the two were the same, and referred the reader to his original description of *graviceps* for the precise characters of *Cephalomutilla diabolica*. “ Quand j'ai décrit ma *T. graviceps*, de la République Argentine, j'ai émis le soupçon qu'elle pouvait être identique à la *M. diabolica* Gerstaecker, mais en ajoutant que l'insuffisance de la description de l'auteur ne me permettait pas d'affirmer cette identité. La présence, dans la collection que j'étudie, d'un individu de *diabolica*, provenant de Paraná, me donne maintenant la certitude que ma supposition était fondée et que la *graviceps* André doit être réunie comme simple synonyme à la *diabolica* Gerstaecker. Je renvoie donc à la description que j'ai donnée de *graviceps*, pour préciser les caractères de cette espèce, et j'ajouterai seulement que sa taille peut varier de 9 à 11 millimètres ”.

5. I examined the type specimen of *Mutilla diabolica* Gerstaecker in 1931 at the Zoologisches Museum der Universität, Berlin, Germany. In my opinion it is congeneric with *Mutilla indica* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 583), the type species by selection by André in 1903 (*in* Wytzman's *Gen. Ins.* **1** (Fasc. 11) : 55) of *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901, because the head is only slightly broader than the thorax, eyes globular, smooth and shining, mandibles acuminate at the tip, thorax elongate ovate narrowed posteriorly, slightly but distinctly constricted medially, with the lateral margins slightly tuberculate, first abdominal segment petiolate, last abdominal segment with a

distinct pygidial area, and second abdominal segment with four, glabrous, shining, red or yellow spots. All of these characters were cited by André in 1901 (*Z. f. Hymen. Dipt.* 1 : 257–258) in his original diagnosis of *Traumatomutilla* when he established it as a subgenus of *Mutilla* Linnaeus. The taxon *Traumatomutilla* was removed from *Mutilla* Linnaeus by André in 1903 (*in* Wytsman's *Gen. Ins.* 1 (Fasc. 11) : 54) and placed as a subgenus of *Ephuta* Say, 1836 (*Boston J. nat. Hist.* 1 : 297). André first elevated the taxon *Traumatomutilla* to full generic rank in 1908 (André, 1908, *Bull. Soc. ent. France* 1908 : 230 ; *id.*, (1908), *An. Mus. nac. Buenos Aires* (3) 10 : 197*).

6. About three months later in 1931 I studied all of André's Mutillid type specimens in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. The type specimen of *Ephuta* (*Traumatomutilla*) *graviceps* André, 1903, has the head subrectangular, transverse, much broader than the thorax ; the thorax shorter than in *diabolica* and very indistinctly constricted at the middle. The large broad head and short, unindistinctly constricted thorax are totally unlike *diabolica*, *indica* or other females of *Traumatomutilla*, and it was because of these characters that André proposed the new genus *Cephalomutilla* in 1908.

7. As will be seen from paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the type specimen of *Ephuta* (*Traumatomutilla*) *graviceps* André, 1903, and that of *Mutilla diabolica* Gerstaecker, 1874, are very different from one another and are clearly not congeneric. The first of these species agrees with the current concept of the genus *Cephalomutilla* André, the genus to which André intended to refer the species, while *diabolica* Gerstaecker corresponds with the current concept of the genus *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901. It would cause serious confusion if it were necessary to sink the name *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908), as a junior synonym of *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901, and to provide a new generic name for the group of species currently known by the first of these names. I accordingly ask that this situation should be prevented from arising by the designation by the International Commission under its Plenary Powers as the type species of *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908), of the nominal species *Ephuta* (*Traumatomutilla*) *graviceps* André, 1903. Such action would both do justice to the evident intention of André and would moreover promote stability by avoiding the pointless abandonment of a well established name purely for reasons of a narrow nomenclatorial character.

8. No family-group name problem arises in the present case since the genera *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901, and *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908), are both South American genera of the family MUTILLIDAE.

9. For the reasons set forth above, I ask that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

- (1) under the procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, for determining the type species of a genus based upon a misidentified type species, use its Plenary Powers (a) to set aside the original designation by André of *Mutilla diabolica* Gerstaecker, 1874, as the type species of *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908), and (b) in its place to designate the nominal species *Ephuta* (*Traumatomutilla*) *graviceps* André, 1903, to be the type species of the above genus ;

*During the early years of the *Anales* of the National Museum of Buenos Aires two methods of citation were adopted simultaneously for the numbering of volumes. Under one system the volumes were broken up into series with separate volume numbers for each series; under the other the volumes were numbered consecutively. The volume here under consideration was thus numbered as Volume 17 as well as Volume 10 of Series 3.

- (2) place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908) (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers, under (1) above : *Ephuta* (*Traumatomutilla*) *graviceps* André, 1903) ;
 - (b) *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by André (1903) : *Mutilla indica* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
- (3) place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—
- (a) *graviceps* André, 1903, as published in the combination *Ephuta* (*Traumatomutilla*) *graviceps* (specific name of type species of *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908)) ;
 - (b) *indica* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Mutilla indica* (specific name of type species of *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901) ;
 - (c) *diabolica* Gerstaecker, 1874, as published in the combination *Mutilla diabolica*.

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Mickel's preliminary enquiry the question of the designation of a type species in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal genus *Cephalomutilla* André, (1908) (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera), was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 902.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 2nd November 1956 and was published on 25th January 1957 in Part 1 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Mickel, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 22-25).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51-56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 25th January 1957 (a) in Part 1 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Mickel's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications and to seven entomological serials in Europe and America.

5. No Objection Received : Neither the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* nor the issue of Public Notices in regard thereto elicited any objection to the action proposed in this case.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)49 : On 31st July 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)49) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name

Cephalomutilla André, (1908), as set out in Points (1) to (3) in paragraph 9 on pages 24 and 25 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* " [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 31st October 1957.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)49 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)49 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-five (25) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Bodenheimer ; Holthuis ; Mayr¹ ; Hering ; Mertens ; Lemche ; Hankó ; Key ; Vokes ; Dymond ; Riley ; Bradley (J.C.) ; do Amaral ; Esaki ; Hemming ; Prantl ; Jaczewski ; Kühnelt ; Stoll ; Bonnet ; Boschma ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Cabrera ; Tortonese ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 1st November 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)49, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " : On 7th May 1958, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)49.

11. Original References for Generic and Specific Names : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Cephalomutilla André, (1908), *An. Mus. nac. Buenos Aires* (Ser. 3) **10** : 194
diabolica, *Mutilla*, Gerstaecker, 1874, *Arch. Naturgesch.* **40** : 76

¹In returning an affirmative vote on this case Commissioner Mayr expressed the view that the fact that, as it appeared, no adequate description of the nominal species *Mutilla diabolica* Gerstaecker, 1874, had ever been published, it was desirable that, if possible, this deficiency should be made good before the specific name *diabolica* Gerstaecker was placed on the *Official List*. Dr. Mickel, who had been consulted by the Secretary on the point raised by Professor Mayr, replied (*in litt.*, 12th March 1957) that a description of the kind proposed ought to be made not from the notes which he had made when in 1931 he had examined the type in Berlin but from the type itself.

graviceps, *Ephuta* (*Traumatomutilla*), André, 1903, *Ann. Soc. ent. France*, 72 : 453

indica, *Mutilla*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 583

Traumatomutilla André, 1901, *Z. f. Hymen. Dipt.* 1 : 257-258

12. Reference for the selection of a type species of a nominal genus : The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For *Traumatomutilla* André, 1901

André, 1903, in Wytsman's
Gen. Ins. 1 (Fasc. 11) : 55

13. Family-Group-Name Aspects : No family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the applicant having reported (in paragraph 8 of the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*) that the genera concerned are currently referred to the family MUTILLIDAE.

14. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. "Opinion" Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Forty-Two (542) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Seventh day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING